(c) The meeting discussed the general and sectoral policies being pursued by the Governemnt of India with the objective of creating greater awareness about the growing Indian market and emerging opportunities. Besides, the meeting also focused on India's business and investment climate and on the country's trade, education and social welfare initiatives. The response received by India at the meeting was positive and encouraging.

Shifting of Headquarters of SIDBI

75. DR. AKHILESH DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any Headquarter, other than that in Lucknow, of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in Mumbai or in Delhi;

(b) what is the strength of the management and other staff of the said Bank in Lucknow, Delhi and Mumbai in each place separately:

(c) whether there is any proposal to gradually shift the Headquarters of SIDBI from Lucknow to Delhi or Mumbai; and

(d) whether the Chairman and other senior officers of SIDBI operate from Lucknow or elsewhere?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) SIDBI's Headquarter is in Lucknow only.

(b) The strength of the management and other staff of SIDBI in Lucknow, Delhi and Mumbai is as under:

	Officers	Other Staff
Lucknow	128	23
Delhi	048	10
Mumbai	152	37

(c) There is no proposal to shift the Headquarter of SIDBI.

(d) Chairman and other Senior Officers of SIDBI operate from Lucknow.

Abolition of Customs Duty on LPG and Kerosene

†76. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to abolish the customs and excise duties on LPG and kerosene oil;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) In this year's budget, LPG for domestic use and kerosene for public distribution system (PDS) have been fully exempted from both customs and excise duties. As regards kerosene for other than PDS use, the import duty has been reduced from 20% to 10%.

Industry Friendly Tax Structure

77. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are working on an industry friendly tax structure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have appointed a committee for streamling the duty structure of petroleum products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Irregularities in banks

78. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the complete details of irregularities in various banks during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken against such banks; and

(c) what corrective steps have been initiated to stop recurrence of such irregularities in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that frauds have been observed in the home loan and personal loan

segments. The other areas where frauds have occurred are credit portfolio, credit cards, deposit accounts, forged and fake demand drafts/cheques etc. Details of frauds in public sector banks during the last three years are given below:

Year	All Frauds		Out of which Rs. 1 crore and above	
	No.	Amt. (Rs. crores)	No.	Amt. (Rs. crores)
2001-02	1409	476.09	60	433.93
2002-03	1744	399.55	62	302.71
2003-04	2207	653.50	66	359.18

(b) Various steps are taken against the individual bank in case irregularities are noticed. The reasons for irregularities are investigated by RBI to ensure that the bank takes preventive measures to avoid recurrence of such irregularities. Strict follow up for rectification of irregularities observed during the Annual Financial Inspection of the bank is done by RBI. A penalty is also imposed on the banks for violation of RBI directives.

(c) RBI has taken following concrete steps to stop recurrence of frauds in future;

(1) RBI has been cautioning banks from time to time against fraudsters and their *modus operandi.*

(2) RBI has also been pleading with State Governments for bringing certain progressive measures such as making the encumbrance of the banks on the mortgaged properties with the Registrar of Assurances by payment of a nominal fee as this measure will go a long way in arresting multiple creation of mortgages by the fraudsters.

(3) Steps have also been taken to vigorously monitor the large value frauds. All fraud cases involving Rs. 1 crore and above are monitored by Department of Banking Supervision (DBS) of RBI and put up to the Board of Financial Supervision on a quarterly basis. Frauds involving Rs. 1 lakh and above but less than Rs. 1 crore are monitored by the Regional Offices of DBS.

(4) In addition, RBI has instructed banks to carry out more intensive